

ST. PATRICK'S HOSPITAL.

Established by Royal Charter.

ST. EDMUNDSBURY BRANCH.



VISIT TO ST. EDMUNDSBURY

AND

REPORT OF HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR
OF LUNATICS.



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1902.

GOVERNORS
OF
St. Patrick's Hospital
DUBLIN.

HIS GRACE THE LORD PRIMATE.
THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD CHANCELLOR.
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.
THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH
THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF ST. PATRICK'S.

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ST. EDMUNDSBURY, LUCAN.



STAFF.



Resident Medical Superintendent :

RICHARD R. LEEPER, F.R.C.S.I., L.R.C.P.I.

Resident Assistant Medical Officer :

W. COOKE, L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I.

Visiting Surgeon :

SIR THORNLEY STOKER, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.,

EX-PRESIDENT R.C.S.I.

Visiting Physician :

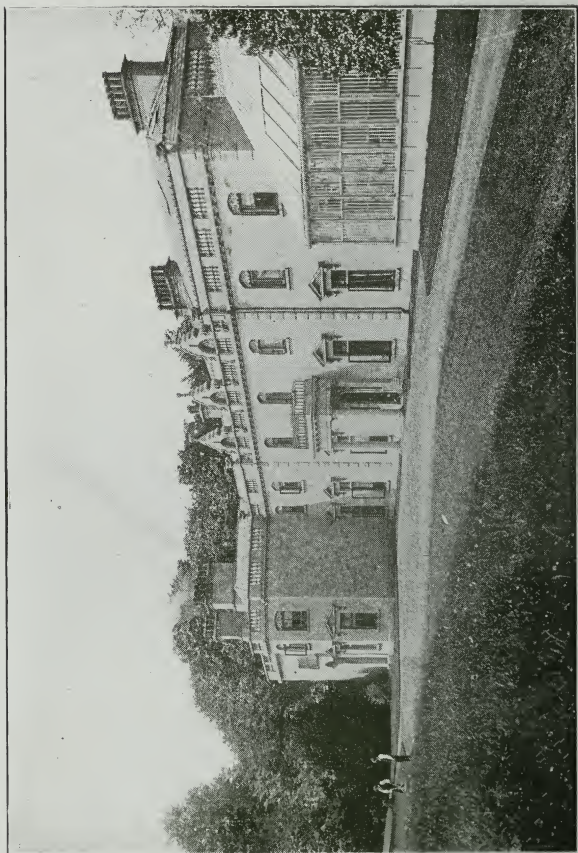
RICHARD A. HAYES, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.

Hospital Registrar :

G. E. R. MANDERS.

Matron :

MISS SNEYD.



ST. EDMUNDSBURY PRIVATE ASYLUM.



ST. PATRICK'S HOSPITAL.

A VISIT TO THE NEW PREMISES AT ST.
EDMUNDSBURY, LUCAN.

FEW institutions in this country are better known than St. Patrick's Hospital. The first, and for many years the only asylum in Ireland.

Over a century and a-half have rolled by since Jonathan Swift, the witty and illustrious Dean of St. Patrick's, died, and bequeathed his property for the foundation of a Home for the Insane, to be established in his native city, and to be called St. Patrick's Hospital.

A suitable site in the western suburbs of Dublin was procured near the Phoenix Park; and in the year 1750—five years after the death of the founder—the Institution was opened for the reception of the mentally afflicted. From the date of its establishment to the present, the Governors have faithfully discharged their trust, and have carried on an excellent work; so much so that all over the country the Asylum is well known and appreciated.

Its recovery rate of over 53 per cent. for the past three years on all admissions speaks for itself, and has



PATIENTS' DRAWINGROOM.

encouraged the Governors to expend a large sum of money in establishing a Branch Institution at Lucan to still further enlarge its curative work, and provide the very highest standard of treatment for the patients committed to their care. The conception formed of the treatment suitable for the insane a century ago was one of harshness, restraint and repression.

The insane are treated to-day with kindness, judicious control, and all the medical means which a century's advance in knowledge has provided, and are placed in those surroundings and treated as similarly as possible to sane beings in their own homes suffering from bodily diseases.

The Governors of St. Patrick's Hospital have realised these facts, and have provided accommodation at their institutions in accordance with the most modern and scientific ideas, and intend to provide in Ireland, the best possible standard of treatment, and ensure that the best efforts are made to restore the sufferers entrusted to their care.

In accordance with their Royal Charter, they have established **a country branch**, and have purchased St. Edmundsbury, near Lucan; beautifully situated on the top of the hill, overlooking the valley of the Liffey, and standing in the midst of charming grounds. Anything more unlike what is popularly known as a lunatic asylum could hardly be imagined.

Externally, the house presents an attractive and imposing appearance; standing, as it does, in the midst of extensive and charming grounds of some two hundred acres in all. It consists of basement, first and second storeys, and the whole of the latter is given up to the use of the patients, except the quarters in the western wing, reserved for the resident doctor.



PATIENTS' DINING-ROOM—LOOKING INTO DRAWINGROOM AND WRITING-ROOM.

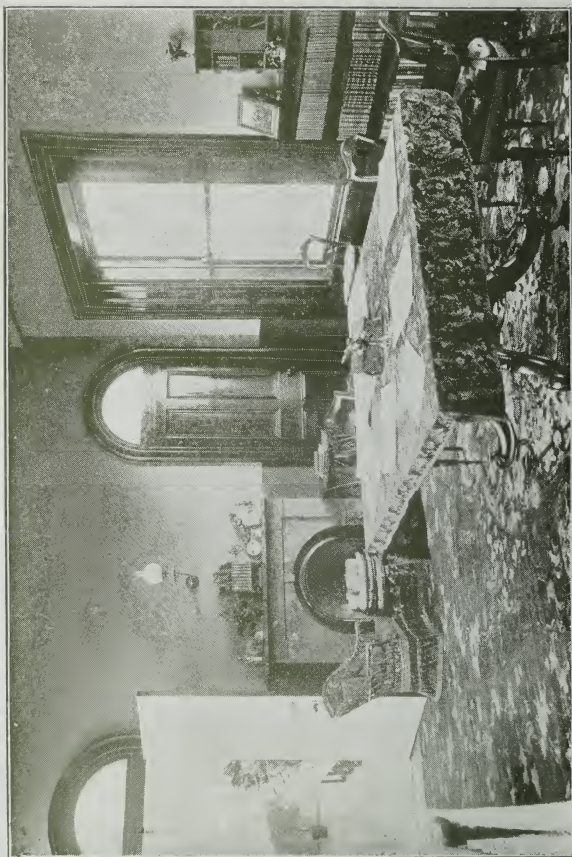
All the rooms are lofty and spacious, and great taste has been displayed in the decorations, and in the judicious selection of the furniture. The bedrooms are particularly bright and cheerful, while the views from the windows could hardly be surpassed. The sanitary arrangements have been completely reconstructed on the most approved scientific principles; and additional bathrooms, supplied with hot and cold water, have been added. The dining-room, drawing room, library, and reading-room are such as few houses of the wealthy can boast of; opening from the latter is a spacious and well-stocked conservatory. In fact, nothing is omitted that can conduce to the comfort, happiness, and enjoyment of the residents.

So different is everything from the traditions of Irish asylums for the insane, that one can hardly realise that this delightful place is to be used for such a purpose.

The Governors of St. Patrick's Hospital are to be congratulated on being among the pioneers in Ireland of this new and rational system of treatment for the mentally afflicted.

In the garden are extensive greenhouses and vineries, while the grounds to the north-east are devoted to tillage. In fact, farming on a very large scale is successfully carried on, so that almost everything necessary for the patients, both at St. Edmundsbury and at the Institution in Dublin, is produced on the ground: mutton, milk, butter, eggs, etc., and vegetables of all sorts; the dietary, therefore, is sure to be of the best and freshest description, while a visit to the kitchen is sufficient to show that every care is taken to serve the food in the nicest way.

In the woods adjacent to the house are delightful walks and quiet resting places, where, under the shade of



READING-ROOM, LOOKING INTO CONSERVATORY.

the graceful chestnuts and stately beeches, the patients can sit and enjoy their lovely surroundings. In few places can a greater variety of trees be seen, or finer specimens of them : cedars, oaks, yews, beeches, chestnuts, and even the rare and beautiful tulip tree—besides the more common sorts, which are to be found in great profusion.

The road from Dublin to Lucan passes the main entrance, and forms the southern boundary, while on the north they are separated from Lord Annaly's demesne by the river Liffey, along the banks of which are some beautifully picturesque views of the weir and islands.

Patients, whose condition indicates necessity for a change enjoy frequent carriage drives, are sent to the sea-side from this establishment, under suitable care, and are visited when there regularly by the Medical Superintendent.

St. Edmundsbury is six miles from Dublin by road, and the Dublin and Lucan Electric Tramway passes the entrance gates. It is one mile from the railway station (Lucan), on the Midland Great Western Railway, and about the same distance from Lucan Station, on the Great Southern and Western line.

A copy of a recent report of Dr. Courtenay, Inspector of Lunatics, in reference to this Institution, is appended.



At St. Edmundsbury, as well as at the parent Institution in Dublin, there is an experienced Resident Physician in charge, besides a Matron, and a full staff of trained Nurses and Attendants.

Lady Patients can be admitted directly to the Country Establishment, and application for terms should be addressed to the Registrar, St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin.



THE MILL, SEEN THROUGH THE TREES N.E. OF HOUSE.



ST. EDMUNDSBURY PRIVATE ASYLUM.

Memorandum of Inspection

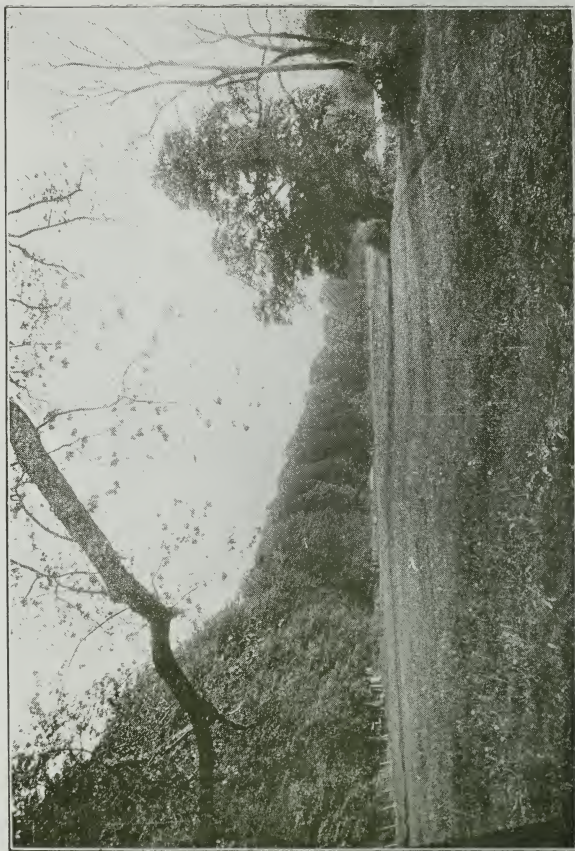
ON THE

28th JUNE, 1902.

THERE are Sixteen Ladies now living at this charming retreat, where they enjoy not alone the comforts of a bright and cheerful home, but also all the advantages of a beautifully wooded demesne, where, in perfect seclusion, they can wander about. All the ladies appear to be carefully looked after, and, at the same time, to enjoy all the liberty which their mental condition will permit of their being allowed. The greater number appear to fully appreciate their surroundings, and to enjoy sitting or walking about the grounds.

The Board have, I understand, under consideration the provision of adequate safeguards against fire, which should embrace means of obtaining a sufficient supply and pressure of water. The importance of this matter for the safety of the patients, and for the protection of the building will, I am sure, induce the Board to come to a speedy decision on a scheme for carrying out the work.

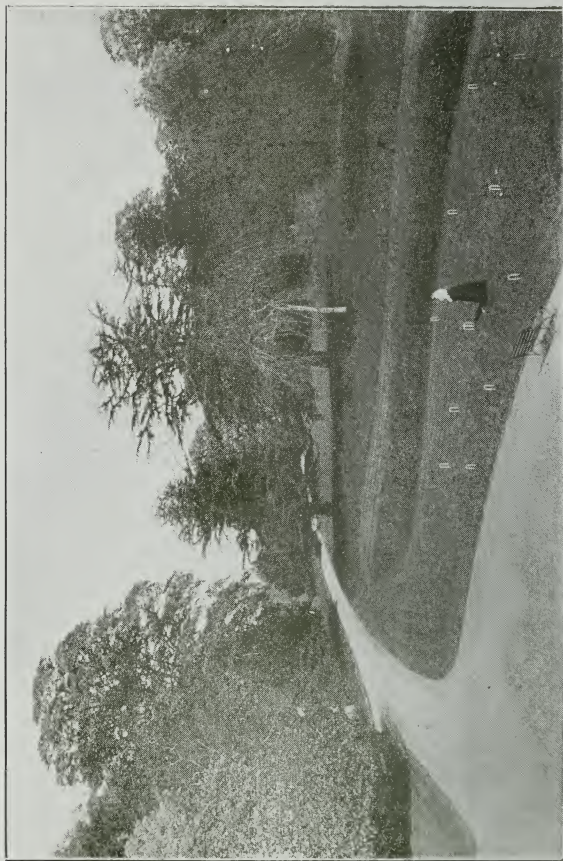
The supply of flowers and plants in the handsome conservatory attached to the mansion might, with advantage, be more abundant.



FIELD, UNDER WEST WOOD, LOOKING TOWARD THE VILLAGE OF LUCAN.



VIEW FROM DINING-ROOM WINDOWS, LOOKING N.W.



TERRACE, FRONT OF HOUSE, LOOKING EAST.

The various rooms—sittingrooms and bedrooms—were found in excellent order, and the dining table was laid in a manner suitable to the social habits of the patients who reside in this establishment.

One lady is able to attend church outside, and prayers are held every Sunday by the Medical Superintendent.

The Staff consists of Six Nurses, and two of these have just been up for the Medico Physiological Association Examination, and one has already obtained the Certificate.

E. M. COURTENAY,

Inspector of Lunatics.

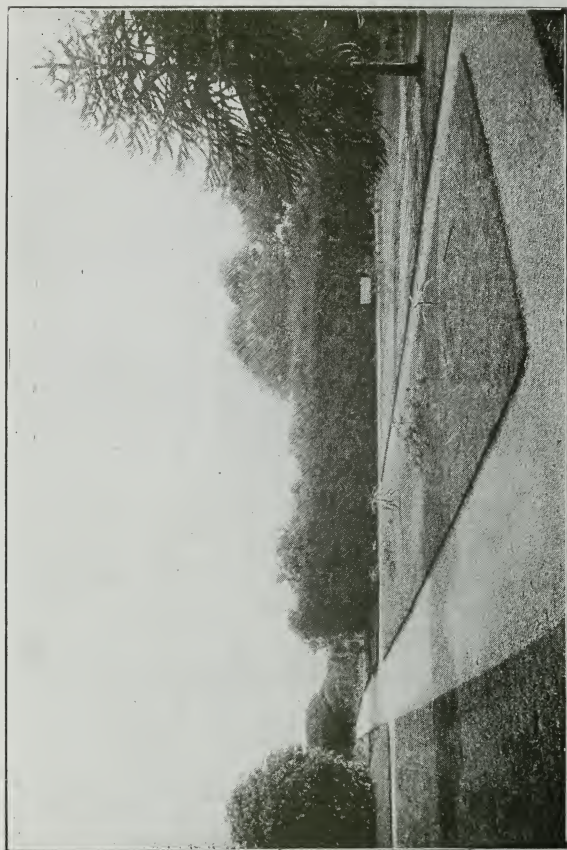
Memorandum of Inspection

ON THE

9th August, 1899.

THIS House has been open for the reception of patients since March last, and since that date eighteen ladies have been received, of whom two have been discharged recovered, and three have been sent back to St. Patrick's Hospital. All the present residents are perfectly quiet and well-behaved; two were said to have had slight suicidal tendencies on admission, but they now appear fairly contented, and seem to enjoy wandering about the fields.

The mansion and surrounding grounds provide excellent accommodation for insane patients of the wealthy class. The house presents all the aspects of a comfortable and luxurious home. Throughout there is an entire absence of any appearance of



CENTRE WALK IN PATIENTS' GARDEN.

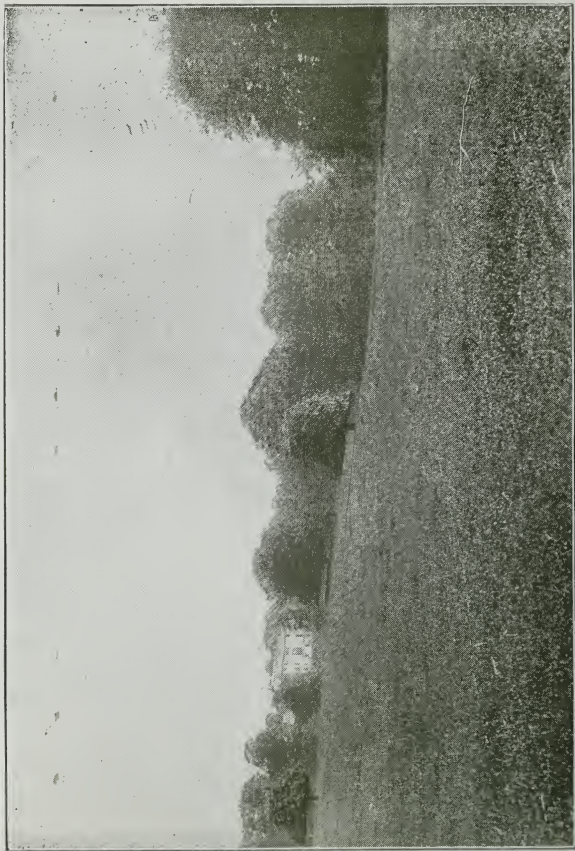
restraint or of anything which would call to mind the usual surroundings of an asylum. There are no locked doors ; no bars on the windows ; and the ladies wander from room to room as they please. The sitting-rooms and dining-rooms are large and lofty, and afford most charming views of the surrounding scenery. Both these rooms and the bedrooms are furnished in good taste, and with due consideration of the requirements of the inmates.

I saw the table prepared for dinner. The most careful attention appears to be paid to the service of the meal. The appointments were those of a modern table d'hôte ; the table was decorated with flowers ; the tablecloth and napkins were white and fresh ; the silver, glass, and china were such as one sees at a modern dinner-table. These small matters are of great importance in the treatment of the insane.

The estate contains 200 acres, and is beautifully wooded, affording most charming walks along the river bank. The garden—part of which is laid out with flower-beds, which are now exceedingly gay and tastefully arranged — provides a resort admirably suited for patients of the class received here, where they can lounge and sit as they were accustomed when at home.

The water supply is pumped by a gas engine from springs near the river to storage tanks on the top of the house, and there are large tanks for the collection of rain-water.

As regards fire appliances, buckets filled with water have been placed on the various galleries. A few hand fire engines might prove useful in extinguishing a fire on its first outbreak.



NORTH SIDE OF HOUSE, FROM FIELD NEAR THE MILL

The sanitary arrangements appear to have been fitted up with due regard to modern ideas on the subject, and with proper attention to the wants of the insane.

The Staff consists of the Medical Superintendent, Visiting Physician, Five Nurses, and Eight Domestic Servants. One of the Nurses has had some hospital training, and Dr. Molony is preparing the others for the Medico-Psychological Association Certificate.

Two of the ladies are able to attend divine service at the neighbouring parish church, and a short service is held in one of the sitting-rooms on Sundays, but as yet no regular chaplain has been appointed.

Driving parties are taken to different parts of the surrounding country, and the ladies walk about the grounds in the morning and evening.

A case-book is now kept, and the various registers are written up to date.

I certainly can congratulate the Governors on the wisdom they have shown in the purchase of this charming mansion and estate, so suitable for the object for which it was acquired.

E. M. COURTENAY,

9th August, 1899.

Inspector of Lunatics.

Memorandum of Inspection

ON THE

20TH DECEMBER, 1901.

THE changes, so far as numbers are concerned, which have occurred since last visit, on the 8th June, 1901, have been the admission of one lady, and the



BEECH WOOD NEAR GARDEN, JUST OUTSIDE GARDEN GATE

discharge of three, of whom two had improved, and one had recovered, leaving at the present time seventeen patients under care.

There has been no death, or any record of escape, or other untoward event.

All the patients at present appear to be in good health.

Even during the present winter season the house looks bright and cheerful.

I saw the ladies at luncheon, which was served with all the surroundings and observances required by the habits of civilised society. The behaviour of the patients was all that could be desired.

The bed-rooms were in good order and properly furnished. Fires should, however, be kept burning in these rooms during this cold weather.

Improvements have been made in the laundry machinery, so as to facilitate the washing and drying of the clothes.

Driving parties continue to go out every week, and entertainments are provided from time to time.

Last Summer a party of ladies were sent to the seaside for the benefit of their health.

Prayers are read on Sundays, and two ladies are able to attend the neighbouring Church.

Since last visit, Miss Sneyd has been appointed Matron.

The books and registers are carefully kept by Dr. Molony.

E. M. COURTENAY.

Inspector of Lunatics.

20th December, 1901,



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